

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 USSS-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11 OPR-02 A-01 OC-05

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P R 131145Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7611

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT

SUBJECT: DUBLIN REACTIONS TO FRANK STAGG DEATH

1. AMID REPORTS OF RENEWED VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND THREATS OF FURTHER INCIDENTS THROUGHOUT THE UK, THE IRISH GOVERNMENT HAS SO FAR REMAINED OFFICIALLY SILENT ON THE DEATH OF FRANK STAGG ON FEBRUARY 12. STAGG, AND IRA OFFICER WHO DIED AS A RESULT OF A HUNGER STRIKE IN WAKEFIELD PRISON IN THE UK, IS EXPECTED TO BE BURIED AT BALLINA NEAR HIS HOME VILLAGE OF HOLLYMOUNT IN CO. MAYO. HIS DEATH HAS RESULTED IN A GREAT DEAL OF EMOTIONAL REACTION ON THE PART OF PRO-IRA AND ANTI-BRITISH ELEMENTS, AND THE DEATH, DESPITE THE FACT THAT IT WAS SELF-INFLICTED, IS WIDELY BEING BLAMED ON THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO REPORTS REACHING DUBLIN, STAGG'S FAMILY AND THE IRA INTEND TO HAVE HIS BODY SHIPPED TO DUBLIN VIA AIR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. STAGG'S LAWYER, MICHAEL CONNEELY, STATED TO THE PRESS THAT STAGG HAD ASKED THAT HIS FUNERAL BE A MILITARY ONE ORGANIZED BY THE PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN. NO FURTHER DETAILS HAVE BEEN REPORTED.

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2. IN DUBLIN THE PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT

WILL HOLD A PUBLIC PROTEST MARCH BEGINNING AT 8:00 P.M. FEBRUARY 13. THE MARCH IS TO BEGIN AT THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, ST. STEPHEN'S GREEN, IN CENTRAL DUBLIN AND WILL MOVE TO THE MAIN POST OFFICE BUILDING ACROSS THE RIVER LIFFEY. THE MEETING IS EXPECTED TO BE ADDRESSED BY RUAIRI O'BRADAIGH, PRESIDENT OF THE PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN, AND MRS. MAIRE DRUMM, VICE PRESIDENT. PRIOR TO STAGG'S DEATH THERE HAD BEEN DAILY DEMONSTRATIONS ON HIS BEHALF IN FRONT OF THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN DUBLIN.

3. IN THE MEANTIME, THE GOVERNMENT IN DUBLIN IS EXAMINING THE SITUATION. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL TRY TO AVOID INTERVENING ACTIVELY IF A MILITARY-STYLE FUNERAL IS HELD, THUS REDUCING THE RISK OF CONFRONTATION AND VIOLENCE. THERE IS CLEARLY AN AWARENESS, NEVERTHELESS, THAT A FUNERAL IN THE HANDS OF THE PROVISIONAL IRA COULD TAKE ON THE CHARACTER OF A POLITICAL DEMONSTRATION DIRECTED AGAINST THE IRISH GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS AGAINST THE BRITISH.
CURLEY

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